

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2013 Yukon River Fall Salmon Fishery News Release # 20

Fall Announcement # 17, District 1 Commercial Period 7

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

Through August 15, the cumulative fall chum salmon passage past Pilot Station sonar is approximately 411,755 fish, which is above the historical median of 344,439 fish for that date. The estimated fall chum run size based on run reconstruction through August 15 is 524,000 fish which is above the historical median of 416,000 fish for that date. Based on inseason assessment, the projected fall chum salmon run size is between 700,000 to 900,000 fish. This level of abundance should be adequate to meet escapement and subsistence priorities and provide for commercial harvest.

A second pulse of fall chum salmon entered Yukon River on August 12 and is currently passing the Pilot Station sonar. The estimated size of this pulse is 200,000 fish. After several days of low fall chum salmon catches at the Lower Yukon River test fisheries, catches increased in this morning's drift.

District Y-1

Commercial fishing will be open for one period in the **Coastal Set Net Only Area** of District Y-1 on Saturday, August 17 from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. This will be a 6 hour commercial fishing period for the **Coastal Set Net Only Area** with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh.

The remainder of District Y-1 will be open to commercial fishing on Saturday, August 17 from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to six-inch or smaller mesh.

For the entire District Y-1, no Chinook salmon can be sold during this commercial opening. Fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. **Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.**

There has not been a commercial salmon fishing period in District Y-1 since August 5. The preliminary cumulative commercial fall chum harvest for District Y-1 is 53,430 fall chum and 3,589 coho salmon.

In District Y-1, subsistence salmon fishing is open during the fall season 7 days per week except for 12 hours before, during, and 12 hours after each commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to a maximum mesh size of 7.5 inches. In District Y-1, subsistence salmon fishing will close at 5:00 a.m. Saturday, August 17, and reopen at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, August 18.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 and 459-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks 1-866-479-7387). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or the Fairbanks office at 459-7274. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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